UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/854
S/1997/274
4 April 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 39
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL
PEACE AND SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 3 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 3 April 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan in connection with the continuing conflict in Afghanistan (see annex). I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Akmaral Kh. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Statement issued on 3 April 1997 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan, reaffirming its commitment to the decisions of the Almaty summit meeting of 4 October 1996 and to the decisions of the special meeting of the United Nations Security Council, expresses its concern at the continuing conflict in Afghanistan. The threat of hostilities in that country coming closer to the borders of the Commonwealth of Independent States can adversely affect the situation in the Central Asian region.

Decisive measures must therefore be taken to involve the parties to the conflict in Afghanistan in the restoration of statehood, national consolidation and the establishment of long-awaited peace in that unfortunate land.

Kazakstan has consistently advocated the observance of the following principles:

- The Afghan groups involved in the confrontation and the international community should make every effort to preserve the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan;

- The basis for national reconciliation should be the formation of a democratic Government of national confidence that reflects the interests of all strata of Afghan society. Effective measures should be taken to convince the opposing groups of the need to achieve this goal and ensure support for United Nations efforts;

- The peace process must be guaranteed, and all parties to the conflict must recognize that the Afghan conflict can be settled only through peaceful means.